

Dear Colleagues and friends,

I know a lot of friends and loved ones who recently lost their mothers from advanced age and illnesses. I just like to share with you my thoughts about it and my experience losing one of the dearest persons in my life. (I wrote this many years ago.)

"Dividing the Wealth left by my Mom."

My Mom was a widow at age 44. My Dad passed away at age 51. He left us with struggling finances and debts, him being sick for a while. My mother had to raise us, 7 siblings, by herself. She had no immediate family of her own. Her parents and brother were all deceased. We were the only one she had.

My Mom never had a career. She only finished 2nd grade in elementary. She only read two books in her lifetime, "ABKD" and "Pepe and Pilar" and never watched a movie for her own leisure. She dedicated her whole life as a mother. Through hard work, she was able to send us all, seven, to college. (2 doctors, 1 Police Colonel, 2 Business Administration, 1 Marketing Major and 1 Music Major).

When my mother died at the age of 86, we discovered that she did not have money and had no properties, no bank books and no land titles. She would live with one of my siblings then would move to another, then to another, enjoying their company.

After her funeral, all 7 of us gathered around the original family long table. My oldest brother, who is also a doctor, presided and said, "Now, we are going to distribute mom's possessions equally to her children." Then, he grabbed an old big envelope and started distributing. "Here are her old pictures, small calendars, coins, old letters, old IDs..."

I happily received her old ID and a few pictures.

The seven of us were very appreciative of what my mother had done to us. Since she did not leave any material wealth, we were never given the chance to fight for the money.

We embraced and left the house happily, still loving each other. I'm so grateful I got the old ID and pictures and the life experience she gave!

We could not divide my mom's wealth. They were in our hearts.